

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 05MUMBAI1708, GUJARAT: WILY MODI WEAKENS HIS OPPONENTS AND POSITIONS

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05MUMBAI1708**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05MUMBAI1708	2005-08-10 11:16	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Consulate Mumbai

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1559555.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MUMBAI 001708

SIPDIS

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KIRF](#) [PINR](#) [CVIS](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: GUJARAT: WILY MODI WEAKENS HIS OPPONENTS AND POSITIONS  
HIMSELF FOR BIGGER THINGS

REF: A) Mumbai 876; B) Mumbai 1303

Summary and Comment -----

[1](#)1. (C) On August 1, controversial Gujarat BJP Chief Minister Narendra Modi (whose visa we revoked for his role in the 2002 Gujarat Hindu-Muslim riots) Shares Power With His Critics...

[1](#)2. (C) In late March, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Lal Krishan Advani directed Modi to expand his cabinet after BJP parliamentarians

[1](#)3. (C) On August 1, Modi finally expanded his cabinet by swearing in 11 new ministers. The cabinet, which had far fewer ministers than allowed by the constitution...And Weakens Them in the Process

[1](#)4. (C) Many contacts, including journalists Anosh Malekar and Uday Mahurkar as well as BJP official Pankaj Mudholkar, told us that none of the contacts

[1](#)5. (C) Mudholkar and Mahurkar said that Modi has ingeniously strengthened his position while weakening that of his opponents by superficially expanding his cabinet...Caste Politics Still Alive in Gujarat

[1](#)6. (C) Modi also appears to be using the cabinet expansion to change the power equation among castes in Gujarat. The Patel caste had long dominated Gujarat politics

[1](#)7. (C) Some of our contacts see Modi's move to change the caste equation as a masterful stroke. Others warn that he might be creating future problems...Are Troubles Brewing with the VHP?

[1](#)8. (C) Modi may also be facing new troubles from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). One parliamentarian close to the VHP, Ahmedabad-based Govardhan

[1](#)9. (C) Our sources, including journalist Mahurkar, tell us the chief minister further alienated urban middle class Hindu voters by granting a cabinet expansion...Eyes on The National Stage

[1](#)10. (C) Despite the shenanigans in Gujarat local politics, it is clear Modi has his eyes on bigger things. His governing style has its appeal

Comment: A Force to be Reckoned With

[1](#)11. (C) We agree that power sharing has weakened the rebels, who appear to have accepted the reality that they are not strong enough to topple the government

CHEATHAM